

Message Text

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12

ACTION SY-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 INR-05 CIAE-00 /016 W

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R 050630Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO U.S. SECRET SERVICE, HONOLULU, HAWAII

INFO U.S. SECRET SERVICE, WASHDC

SECSTATE WASHDC 8084

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 17443

DEPT FOR A/SY/FO; HONG KONG FOR RSS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, TH, ASEC

SUBJECT: ALLEGED COUNTERFEITING RING

1. THE FOLLOWING CABLE WAS RECEIVED FROM AMERICAN CONSULATE,
CHIANG MAI, THAILAND, AND IS REPEATED FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

QUOTE - WHILE RECENTLY IN CHIANG RAI, CONSULATE SENIOR
THAI EMPLOYEE MR. BANDUP BANSIDDI TALKED WITH INLAW SAPPASRI
WHO RELAYED THE FOLLOWING STORY CONCERNING A U.S. \$20.00
COUNTERFEITING RING: (A) AN UNIDENTIFIED AMERICAN IN
BANGKOK WHO SAYS HE REPRESENTS THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS PRESENTLY
NEGOTIATING FOR THE PURCHASE OF COUNTERFEIT PLATES, BLANK
PAPER AND A QUANTITY OF ALREADY PRODUCED \$20.00 BANKNOTES.
THE COUNTERFEITING WAS DONE BY AN UNIDENTIFIED GROUP PRE-
SUMABLY IN THE SHAN STATE OF BURMA. IN PREPARATION FOR THE
PURCHASE OF THE PLATES AND MONEY BY THE AMERICAN, THE
COUNTERFEITERS HAVE BROUGHT THE PLATES AND MONEY DOWN TO
THE THAI/BURMA BORDER NEAR MAE SAI.

(B) THE AMERICAN'S MIDDLEMAN IN THE OPERATION IS
THAWON KAYOTHA WHO CONTACTED INLAW IN CHIANG RAI AND
ASKED HIM TO NEGOTIATE THE DEAL AT THIS END. INLAW
MADE CONTACT WITH THE SELLERS THROUGH LOCAL YUNNANESE CON-
TACTS WHO WERE DESCRIBED AS FORMER SUBORDINATES OF GENERAL
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TUAN IN THE KMT 5TH ARMY. (COMMENT: THE IMPLICATION IS

THAT GEN. TUAN IS NOT HIMSELF INVOLVED.)

(C) THE AMERICAN IS SAID TO BE OFFERING 100 MILLION BAHT TO THE SELLERS FOR THEIR PLATES, NOTES AND OTHER EQUIPMENT; ANOTHER 100 MILLION BAHT TO THOSE WHO ARE NEGOTIATING THE DEAL FOR HIM; AND IF THE DEAL IS SUCCESSFUL THE AMERICAN HIMSELF WOULD GET 200 MILLION BAHT FROM THE U.S. GOVERNMENT.

(C) SAMPLES OF THE \$20.00 BANKNOTES AND PICTURES OF THE PLATES HAVE ALREADY BEEN SENT TO BANGKOK AT THE AMERICAN'S REQUEST AND HE APPARENTLY WAS SATISFIED. (COMMENT: CONSULATE OFFICERS HAVE SEEN THESE PICTURES OF THE PLATES AND MONEY AND THEY APPEAR GENUINE. WE ARE COPYING THESE PHOTOS AND EXPECT THEM TO BE AVAILABLE 1 NOVEMBER. ORIGINALS MUST 1 NOVEMBER GO BACK TO CHIANG MAI VIA MR. BANCHUP TO INLAW.)

THE ABOVE IN BRIEF ARE THE DETAILS AS WE KNOW THEM AT THIS TIME. INLAW CONTACTED OUR EMPLOYEE IN AN EFFORT TO CONFIRM WHETHER OR NOT THE AMERICAN IN BANGKOK IS LEGITIMATELY WORKING FOR THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. BANCHUP WILL BE INSTRUCTED TO STATE THAT HE COULD NOT CONFIRM THAT THE AMERICAN WAS OR WAS NOT WORKING FOR THE U.S. GOVERNMENT.

REQUEST EMBASSY COORDINATE THIS INFO ASAP WITH NEAREST TREASURY DEPT. OFFICIALS AND INFORM CHIANG MAI OF THEIR PLANS/ADVICE. END QUOTE

2. UNLESS YOU ADVISE US OTHERWISE, WE PLAN TO PROVIDE THE ABOVE INFORMATION TO THE THAI POLICE OFFICIALS CONCERNED WITH THE SUPPRESSION OF COUNTERFEITING AND TO ADVISE CONSULATE CHIANG MAI TO COOPERATE IN ANY POLICE INVESTIGATION BUT INsofar AS POSSIBLE TO LIMIT ANY OTHER INVOLVEMENT IN THIS SITUATION.

3. WE REQUEST YOUR VIEWS CONCERNING THIS CASE AND ANY GUIDANCE YOU CAN PROVIDE. WE WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED OF ANY FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS.
KINTNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COUNTERFEITING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BANGKO17443
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740316-0884
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741171/aaaaciqv.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SY
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12-Aug-2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <10 DEC 2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ALLEGED COUNTERFEITING RING
TAGS: EFIN, ASEC, TH, US, (BANDUP BANSIDDI), (INLAW SAPPASRI), (THAWON KAYOTHA)
To: USSS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005